



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

Raised Bill No. 446

LCO No. 2225

02225_____GAE

Referred to Committee on Government Administration and Elections

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT CONCERNING VOTERS WHO CHANGE PARTY AFFILIATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 9-57 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of any special act or charter to
4 the contrary, whenever any person makes application for admission as
5 an elector in person to an admitting official, he may, on an application
6 for admission as an elector, make application for enrollment on the list
7 of the political party of his preference. Any such elector who has so
8 applied for enrollment shall, upon acquisition of electoral privileges,
9 immediately be entitled to all the privileges of enrollment in the party
10 named in his application, unless (1) he ceases to be an elector in the
11 town or voting district in which he is entitled to vote, as the case may
12 be, (2) he makes application for erasure or transfer or enrollment on
13 the list of another party in accordance with the provisions of section 9-
14 59 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, (3) he files his
15 application for enrollment with the registrars of voters of his town of

16 residence after twelve o'clock noon on the last business day before a
 17 primary, in which case he shall be entitled to the privileges of party
 18 enrollment immediately after the primary, or (4) he files his application
 19 for enrollment with the registrars of voters of his town of residence on
 20 the day of a caucus or convention, in which case he shall be entitled to
 21 the privileges of party enrollment immediately after the caucus or
 22 convention. The registrars of voters or assistant registrars shall add the
 23 names of all persons making such application to the enrollment list or
 24 supplementary enrollment list of the political party of each such
 25 applicant's preference, provided, if a caucus or convention is to be
 26 held, such registrars or assistant registrars shall prepare separate lists
 27 of such names according to party, on the day before such caucus or
 28 convention.

29 (b) Any elector that makes application for erasure or transfer or
 30 enrollment on the list of another party in accordance with the
 31 provisions of section 9-59 of the 2008 supplement to the general
 32 statutes, as amended by this act, shall continue to be entitled to the
 33 privileges of his or her former party enrollment until the attachment of
 34 party privileges in the new party listed on his or her application for
 35 transfer.

36 Sec. 2. Section 9-59 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes is
 37 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
 38 *passage*):

39 Any elector whose name appears on any enrollment list or who has
 40 made application for enrollment may, at any time, make a written
 41 application, on an application form for admission as an elector, which
 42 shall be signed by such elector, to either registrar for erasure of his
 43 name from such list or for transfer of his name to the enrollment list of
 44 another party. If an elector makes an application for erasure, his name
 45 shall be erased from said enrollment list and, if a municipality is
 46 having a primary in which unaffiliated electors are authorized to vote,
 47 under section 9-431, such elector's name shall be placed on the list of

48 unaffiliated electors together with the date he is eligible to vote in a
 49 primary. If an elector makes an application for transfer, his name shall
 50 be transferred to the enrollment list of another party, together with the
 51 effective date of such transfer. Any elector whose name has been
 52 transferred from one enrollment list to another or who has applied for
 53 erasure or transfer of his name from an enrollment list shall not be
 54 entitled to participate or vote in a caucus or primary of [any] the party
 55 to which transfer was made or applied for, participate in the
 56 appointment of members to any board or commission that is political
 57 in nature, be appointed as a member of any board or commission that
 58 is political in nature or be entitled to the privileges accompanying
 59 enrollment in [any] the party to which transfer was made or applied
 60 for, for a period of three months from the date of the filing of his
 61 application for transfer or for erasure. Any elector who removes his
 62 name from the registry list and from an enrollment list in accordance
 63 with the provisions of section 9-35b shall not be entitled to enroll in
 64 any political party or vote in any primary for three months after such
 65 removal. The registrars of voters shall state, on the notice of acceptance
 66 sent under sections 9-23g of the 2008 supplement to the general
 67 statutes, 9-19b and 9-19e, the date enrollment privileges for the party of
 68 transfer take effect, if delayed.

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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>from passage</i> | 9-57 |
| Sec. 2 | <i>from passage</i> | 9-59 |

Statement of Purpose:

To enable an elector who transfers party affiliation to continue to have party privileges in his or her former party until privileges attach in the party to which such elector is transferring.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]